GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1284
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
DEATH OF TIGERS AND ANIMALS IN ZOOS
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale deaths of tigers, leopards and other animals have been reported in various zoos in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have asked the State Governments to conduct enquiries on such deaths;

(c) if so, the number of States which have responded to the Government in this regard;

(d) whether any amendment is required in the present wild life protection laws to check the killings, poaching resulting in deaths of wild animals both in forests and zoos all over the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) During last few months several reports regarding deaths of tigers and panthers have been received. Most of the deaths relate to infant mortalities, mainly caused by mothers rejecting the young ones. As far as adult animals are concerned, there has been no case of large scale mortalities except Nandankanan zoo, where 13 tigers died of `Trypanosomiasis`.

(b)&(c) The Central Government ordered enquiryinto the incident at Nandankanan Zoo. The enquiry report has been received and mitigative measures, after discussions with State Government, have been finalised. State Government has already implemented most of these measures. Andhra Pradesh Government, soon after the killing of a tigress at Hyderabad zoo, handed over the case to State C.I.D as well as to a senior IAS officer of the State at the initiative of the Chief Minister. The Ministry, through Central Zoo Authority, has got rapid assessment of all zoos done after Nandankanan episode and a meeting of Secretaries has been called to discuss the mitigative measures on 27th November, 2000.

(d)&(e) The present legal provisions under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 appear to be adequate to address the issues of poaching and management of Zoos and Protected Areas. The problem is mainly due to ineffective implementation of the provisions of the Act. Financial stringencies in States have further compounded the problem. The Central Government has upgraded the funding pattern in respect of the areas forming part of habitat of endangered species. Funding is now available for reimbursement of the non-recurring and the recurring cost (other than salaries) in full. Even in case of zoos, 100% funding is available for improvement of animal housing, upkeep and healthcare.